OFFICE OF

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Boston, May 7th 1877

Dear Mr Garrison

The enclosed letter from Mr W. K. Rogers, the Private Secretary of President Hayes, reached me to-day. His allusion to you is in reply to my expression of a wish that President Hayes would invite you to have a conversation with him in regard to his Southern policy, and this my expression, grew out of the President's spontaneous expression to me of his regret that you did not approve of it, he ~~added to this~~ adding — "I wish I could have one hour's talk with Mr Garrison; I feel sure, ~~that~~ I could convince him that I am right" —

Taken in connection with these facts, I regard the enclosed letter as

equivalent to extending such an invitation — since it distinctly authorizes and encourages me to do so. Why would it not be possible for you to visit Washington before sailing for Europe? It might enable you, both to give and receive information, and to convey to our anti-slavery friends on the other side the ocean a more complete idea of the political situation. One thing I know it would do — it would confirm you in the conviction that Mr Hayes means to stand by the freedmen & to act with an eye single to their equality of rights.

Please return me the letter of Mr Rogers when you have done with it,

Obliged

Your friend

Henry B. Blackwell